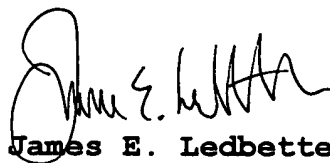


REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment eliminates the multiple dependent claim status of claims 6-8, 11-13, 21-23 and 26-28 in order to avoid the multiple dependent claim surcharge. New claims 34-45 are added to recapture the subject matter in the amended claims.

Early and favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



James E. Ledbetter  
Registration No. 28,732

Date: September 21, 2006

JEL/spp

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. L8638.06116

STEVENS, DAVIS, MILLER & MOSHER, L.L.P.  
Suite 850  
1615 L Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
Telephone: (202) 785-0100  
Facsimile: (202) 408-5200